Waterlogging in coal mines of Madhya Pradesh

†1834. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the danger that may arise out of water-logging in underground coal mines of Tandsi, Chhindwada of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether one section of this mine closed down totally or partially in month of April;

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken to overcome the danger arisen out of waterlogging; and

(d) The details of safety measures taken in this mine for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The mine management is aware of possible water-logging at Tandsi 3 and 4 under ground coal mine; in Chhindwada district of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) on 16-4-2007 one section of Tandsi 1 and 2 mine, *i.e.* 14X depillaring section was stopped due to waterlogging in adjacent Tandsi 3 and 4 mine.

(c) waterlogged workings were dewatered successfully to overcome the danger.

(d) water level is being kept at safe level as suggested by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and is being monitored regularly as safety measure in future. Stand-by pumping arrangement has been made.

Security threat for coal companies

1835. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is security threat for coal companies in our country; and

(b) if so, the actions taken by Government to provide proper security systems for those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) There are no special security threats to Coal Companies in the Country.

Generally, the following security measures have been adopted to deal with security threat to the coal companies:–

1. Intelligence gathering;
2. ensuring all round protection to the establishments through CISF and other security personnel;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. access control;

4. multiple communication system for quick response;

5. effective security measures for the safeguarding of explosive magazines, cash etc.,

6. intensive patrolling in and around the coalfields round the clock and overlapping of surveillance among patrols;

7. introduction of techno-gadgetory at sensitive installations;

8. use of trained guarding dog squads at stores, workshops and outer periphery of the mine areas;

9. regular liaison with police and State authorities;

10. guarding of vital installations with armed guards;

11. arrangement of early warning system at high threat perception zones.

Setting up of coal washeries

1836. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has directed the CIL and its subsidiaries to push up setting up of coal washeries or expanding the existing ones to boost supply of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent this would help to meet the needs of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has been encouraging Power Sector and other coal consumers and private entrepreneurs to set up coal washeries on Build-Own-Operate basis for supply of washed coal to the linked consumers. To encourage setting up coal washeries by consumers/ private entrepreneurs, CIL has been providing land and other infrastructural facilities on lease/chargeable basis subject to its availability. CIL has also decided in principle to set up washeries with the State-of-the-art technologies on "Build and Operate" (BO) basis where Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies will provide the capital funding and other infrastructure facilities. Private entrepreneurs having core competence in the field will construct and operate the washeries. Further, it has been decided that all new opencast projects of more than 2.50 million tonnes capacity, which are not linked to pit-head power stations should be designed with an integrated washery.

(c) The need of the consumers for improved and consistent quality of coal will be satisfied to a large extent through supply of washed coal. Existing non coking coal washing capacity is 103 metric ton per year and it is expected that additional 149 metric tone per year additional washing capacity would be added in XI Plan.